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Pennsylvania Historical
and Museum Commission

BIENNIAL REPORT, 1962-1964



Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg, 1965



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THE PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

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Museum Mural: "The Vision of William Penn";
Muralist Vincent Maragliotti

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PENNSYLVANIA HISTORICAL AND MUSEUM COMMISSION

BIENNIAL REPORT

June 1, 1962 – June 30, 1964

DURING the two years ending on June 30, 1964, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission moved forward to develop fully its responsibilities as "the official agency for the conservation of Pennsylvania's historic heritage, and the preservation of public records, historic documents, and objects of historic interest." In carrying out these responsibilities, the Commission:

- (1) Operates and develops the State Museum, the Pennsylvania Farm Museum, and other museums and historical properties placed in its care by the General Assembly.
- (2) Prepares, erects, and maintains historical markers.
- (3) Investigates and approves requests for disposal of State records.
- (4) Collects, preserves, and makes available for use records of permanent archival character and other important sources for Pennsylvania history.
- (5) Carries on research in Pennsylvania history and archeology and publishes the results for the information of the public.
- (6) Answers historical inquiries for information about Pennsylvania's past.
- (7) Co-operates with state-wide, regional, and local historical organizations and other groups to promote interest and to advance knowledge of the Commonwealth's history and archeology.
- (8) Co-operates with other State agencies and with the national government in fields where their interests coincide.
- (9) Certifies to historic districts under the provisions of historic zoning legislation.
- (10) Certifies to the validity of requests for historical projects involved in Project 70.

Most of these responsibilities have existed since the creation of the Commission in 1945, but they have been carried out most effectively during the present biennial period in the preparations for the

new William Penn Memorial Museum and Archives Building, in the development of the museums and interpretative facilities at the historical properties, in an active research and publications program, in the improvement of the arrangement of the State Archives and in improved archival procedures, as well as in many co-operative activities with historical societies and other agencies.

All these activities reflect a steadily growing interest in the history of Pennsylvania, which has brought an increased demand for services in every program. The realization of their economic value in attracting tourists has added to the demand for an accelerated program for the preservation and restoration of historic sites and buildings and for the acquisition of additional historic properties and the construction of new museum facilities. These factors have resulted in increased activity and responsibility throughout the Commission's organization. In the administrative offices of the Executive Director, new and improved methods have been applied to budget preparation, inventory control, personnel administration, and procurement of services, supplies, and equipment in order to cope with the increased administrative workload and to provide more efficient fiscal planning.

BUREAU OF MUSEUMS, HISTORIC SITES, AND PROPERTIES

During the biennial period of July 1, 1962 to June 30, 1964, the Bureau of Museums, Historic Sites and Properties, which supervises and directs the activities of the Division of Historic Sites and Properties, the State Museum, and the Farm Museum, was absorbed primarily in planning activities for a considerable capital improvements program. Involvement in many phases of the construction of the William Penn Memorial Museum, planning for the removal of exhibits, collections, and equipment from the old museum to the new, and working on detailed exhibit plans absorbed a great amount of time. Simultaneously, restoration and improvement plans for the Pennsylvania Farm Museum and for many historic sites were carried forward during the period.

Intensified public interest in cultural matters generally, and the Commonwealth's natural response in encouraging this interest, particularly in matters historical, has resulted in new museums, restorations, and preservation projects. More detailed aspects of this situation are described in the divisional reports. The Bureau has reflected this desire to preserve and conserve our natural and historical heritage through its planning, directing, and coordinating activities. Interest in the sites of the Bureau is shown in the following attendance figures: 1962—312,494; 1963—367,459.



Gates, Memorial Hall; Sculptor, Charles Rudy

The scope of the Bureau's supervisory program was enlarged because of the new museum and historic site work. The volume of work handled in this period far exceeded that of any period in the past; museum and restoration problems were dealt with in far greater depth and detail than ever before.

The planning phase of the Bureau's activities was more extensive than ever before. Master plans for several historic sites were evolved and four museum facilities planned; two major property museum exhibit plans and five major exhibit areas of the William Penn Memorial Museum were worked out.

An assistant to the Bureau Director was added to the Bureau staff, and the Bureau Director was designated to serve also as the Chief Curator of the William Penn Memorial Museum. A purchasing and specifications clerk was also added to the staff.

To keep operating costs as low as possible during this period of expansion, every effort has been made to buy or install low-cost trouble-free maintenance equipment. Employes are trained to perform a variety of maintenance skills, and every effort is made to have the organization produce satisfactory, well designed, and well constructed exhibits.

STATE MUSEUM

Construction of the William Penn Memorial Museum was well under way at the beginning of the Biennial Report period, July 1, 1962, and the museum's activities were conditioned and influenced to a very great degree by this fact. This was virtually a period completely atypical of the normal functioning of the museum and its program, but it was a period of great challenge and accomplishment.

The last decade has seen a remarkable upsurge of interest in museums in general. This interest has resulted in the construction of many new museums throughout the entire country, in a revised look at exhibit methods, in expanding educational and special information programs, and in broader concepts of collection activities. Public and school visits to museums have increased greatly, and continue to do so, resulting in a growing demand for museum services.

With the State Museum, general visitation has been growing by at least five per cent per year, and public school inquiries and requests for services have grown at an even greater rate. The new William Penn Memorial Museum has been designed to include facilities necessary for greater exhibit, storage, and educational programs which will accommodate this public demand.

This two-year period has been devoted heavily to preparing to meet all aspects of this expanding interest in museums—planning exhibits, expanding collections, setting up educational programs, and working closely with all parties concerned with construction of the building.

The scope of the museum work has been enlarged to include active programs in the fine arts, museum education, history, and earth-space science, as well as expansion of its existing archeological, natural

history, and domestic arts and crafts programs. It has also expanded its museum conservation work, cataloguing, and exhibits preparation efforts.

The chief administrative step taken during these two years was the creation of a number of sections within the museum structure. These were set up on the basis of various broadly-defined areas of subject matter or function. There were six sections in all, Archeology, Natural Science, Fine Arts, Domestic Arts and Crafts, Education, and Exhibits Preparation. Natural Science included Biology and Geology; Domestic Arts and Crafts includes History, Military History, and Technology.

DIVISION OF HISTORIC SITES AND PROPERTIES

The demands of this division have been influenced during the two-year period, July 1, 1962, to June 30, 1964, by the following social and economic developments:

- (1) Greater emphasis on tourism, which has become one of the most important industries in the State. This has been bolstered by the matching funds program between the Department of Commerce and local tourist bureaus.
- (2) Larger number of vacations per year per person because of three- and four-day weekends, as recently cited by the Director of the Bureau of Travel Development of the State Department of Commerce.
- (3) More leisure time available to the American public brought on by shorter working hours and automation.
- (4) A larger proportion of retired population with sufficient income to travel.
- (5) Greater emphasis on our historical heritage stimulated by publications, opening of new museums throughout the country, centennial celebrations of the Civil War, radio and television programs. More people visit museums during the year than attend major league baseball games—approximately 70,000,000 visitors to museums during 1963.

The scope of the program of the Division of Historic Sites and Properties was steadily enlarged during this period through the acquisition of additional historic sites and the establishment of new museum facilities at certain sites. Pithole City (Venango County), Old Custom



Museum Auditorium



Museum Gallery

House and Cashier's House (Erie County) and Bushy Run Battlefield Park were added to the roster of the Division's properties. Museum facilities were constructed at Ephrata Cloister, Drake Well Park, and the Daniel Boone Homestead. Detailed restoration work was initiated or continued at Ephrata Cloister, Old Economy, Bradford House, Graeme Park, and the Morton Homestead.

A major administrative problem in the Division during this period has been the need for an administrator-curator to head the Division, and curatorial personnel at the major properties administered by the Division. During the last quarter of the period, however, a new Chief of the Division was employed as well as Curators for Pennsbury Manor and Ephrata Cloister.

An adequate cataloguing system for the properties has been needed for the Division. Such a program has now been instituted and should be well under way during the coming fiscal year.

PENNSYLVANIA FARM MUSEUM OF LANDIS VALLEY

During the period covered by this report, the Pennsylvania Farm Museum continued its steady growth and development, both in regard to its physical facilities and its use by the public at large. Under Department of Property and Supplies Project 3825, the "Erisman" house, a small Lancaster town house of the late eighteenth century, was moved to the Museum and restored; the concrete block building housing our textile collections and demonstrations was provided with vertical siding and a shingle roof, and was thus brought more into line with the original architectural scheme of the courtyard area.

Visitation grew from 74,180 in the first year of the biennium to 84,323 in the second.

The annual special events, Craft Days, Harvest Home Days, Christmas at Landis Valley, and the Institute of Pennsylvania Life and Culture, were all held and attracted increasing public participation.

The time and efforts of the administrative personnel of this division, when not engaged in the routine problems of the activity, were devoted mainly to the planning of the future development of the property under General State Authority Project 972-1, with Heyl, Treby and Dunklee of Allentown serving as architects, and the refinement of the details of requested succeeding capital improvements projects, which should make the Pennsylvania Farm Museum one of the finest outdoor museums in America.



Dr. S. K. Stevens, Executive Director

BUREAU OF RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS, AND RECORDS

During the biennium, the Bureau of Research, Publications, and Records, which supervises and co-ordinates the archival and historical functions of the Commission, was active in meeting the demand for information about Pennsylvania history and in collecting and preserving the records of the past. Indeed, the museums, historic sites and properties, and historical markers help to arouse this desire to know about the history of the Keystone State, since they make people aware of Pennsylvania's great heritage. In public records, historical manuscripts, and other source materials, the Commission's archivists and historians have continued to collect and preserve the raw materials for the history of the Commonwealth and to make them available to researchers and students, thus encouraging the study and writing of our history. The Commission historians through their own

research have produced still more to add to knowledge of various phases of Pennsylvania history, answering historical inquiries and publishing the results of research for the information of the public. Care has been taken to provide easily read attractive leaflets and pamphlets for the general reader and for the use of the schools, as well as more advanced studies and source publications. The Commission also works with more than a hundred state-wide, regional, county, and local historical societies whose activities have the same general purpose of promoting interest in Pennsylvania's rich historic past and of preserving its records.

During the period, plans and preparations were made for moving the archival and research collections to the new Archives Building; for the development of a county records program to assist the newly created County Records Committee; and for the development and establishment of a State Records Center, in co-operation with the Bureau of Program and Management of the Office of Administration, when the new Archives Building becomes available.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC RECORDS

During this period the Division of Public Records has devoted most of its effort, beyond its routine duties, to continuing and refining the reorganization of its record holdings, which amounted to 15,302 cubic feet of records by June, 1962. Notable progress has been made in the preparation of descriptive inventories, box lists, and other specialized finding media which expand and render more useful the *Summary Guide to the Pennsylvania State Archives* prepared two years ago.



New Drake Well Museum



Restoration at Ephrata Cloister

Supplementary to this process was the re-boxing, re-labelling, and placing in acid-free paper folders of all the early documents of the major record groups. A complete new listing was also prepared for the private manuscript groups.

Desirable accessions were received from several state agencies that extend or fill gaps in record series already in the archives. For lack of space in the present quarters, a number of sizable transfers had to be put in dead storage in a warehouse until they can be moved into the new Archives Building sometime during the coming months. Preparations for assimilating a large body of similar records which have been accumulating over the past years have been carried forward as far as possible at this stage. Considerable time has been devoted to physical preparation of the records now in the custody of the Division for transfer to their future home.

In addition to these special projects, the staff has had to cope with a constantly increasing demand for reference service from state officials, scholars, and the general public. Except for a few brief periods when the Division was short-staffed, these demands have been met with commendable promptness.

In performing a statutory function, the Division co-operates with the Bureau of Program and Management in the Office of Administration in the general records control and inventory program. This has entailed the review and approval of eighty-three requests for the dis-

posal of 42,670 cubic feet of non-current records. In addition, thirty-eight records retention schedules, including 1345 items, were reviewed and forwarded to the Executive Board.

Because of these enlarged demands on a limited staff, work on the military abstract project has been deferred during this biennium. It is anticipated that this important activity can be resumed during the coming year. In fact, increased activity in all phases of the Division's operation will result from the enlarged opportunities of new and suitable quarters.

DIVISION OF RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Through the work of the Division of Research and Publications, substantial additions were made to the list of publications during the biennium. In the latter part of 1962 these included two reprints of articles from historical magazines: Hubertis M. Cummings' "An Account of Goods at Pennsbury Manor, 1687" from the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, and Paul A. W. Wallace's "Logan, the Mingo: A Problem in Identification" from *Pennsylvania Archaeologist*. The 1963 additions included a third reprint, Dr. Wallace's "'Blunder Camp': A Note on the Braddock Road," and a major work, Saul Sack's two-volume *History of Higher Education in Pennsylvania*. In the present year three smaller publications have appeared: *Pennsylvania and the Federal Constitution* by Donald H. Kent and Irwin Richman; *Pennsylvania and the War of 1812* by Harold L. Myers; and *Archaeologist at Work*, with text by W. Fred Kinsey, III, and photographs by Karl Rath. Beside these, a second printing of the latest edition of *Pennsylvania History in Outline* appeared, two new property folders were produced (28th Division Shrine, Bushy Run Battlefield Park), and other folders have been reprinted. Arrangements were made for a second printing of Dr. Wallace's *Indians in Pennsylvania*.

In addition to works actually published, five completed manuscripts were cleared for publication: Frank B. Evans' *Pennsylvania Politics, 1872-1877*, Harold L. Myers' *Windows on Our Past* (an illustrated account of the Commission program), Irwin Richman's *Historical Manuscript Depositories in Pennsylvania*, Paul A. W. Wallace's *Indian Paths of Pennsylvania*, and John Witthoft's *Indian Prehistory of Pennsylvania*. Printer's proof has been received for two of these, which should be available in the near future.



Records Storage, State Record Center

During the biennium 1,276,640 printed items (historic property leaflets, etc.) were published for free distribution. Of these, 39,640 were purchased from the General Fund and the remaining 1,237,000 from the Historical Preservation Fund.

The Division of Research and Publications is also the chief agency for the sale of Commission publications—though the new capitol book shop reports considerable trade and some of the historic properties also have steady sales of relevant items—and it distributes large numbers of free publications, including the “Trail of History” and Historic Properties folders. The increased volume of sales may be illustrated by noting their total value for the first quarter of four consecutive years: for 1961, \$657; for 1962, \$2,008; for 1963, \$1,513; for 1964, \$1,442. In addition, 840 publications printed for sale were distributed free to historical societies under the Act of July 26, 1961, P. L. 912.

The progress of the research program of the Division is indicated by the fact that, of the four new publications issued during the biennium, two were the work of staff members; and that, of the five addi-

tional manuscripts completed for publication, three were produced by the Division staff. The Research Collections have been augmented by additional filmed, microfilmed, and photostated materials. Use of the collections has been restricted, to a slight degree, by preparations for removal to new quarters, and much-desired organization and indexing of some of the records has had to be postponed for the present.

Mail inquiries during the biennium reached a total of some 25,120. Most of these required only routine attention, but about 7,340 called for some amount and kind of research; included among the latter is extended correspondence with some scholars engaged in historical projects of various kinds. Historical markers also require some time for historical research and other investigation. The number of new markers currently is not large. In 1963, seven were erected, of which three were donated; of the four bought with Commission funds, two marked historic properties. In 1964, the total figure was twelve—two donated, and two of the remaining ten for properties.

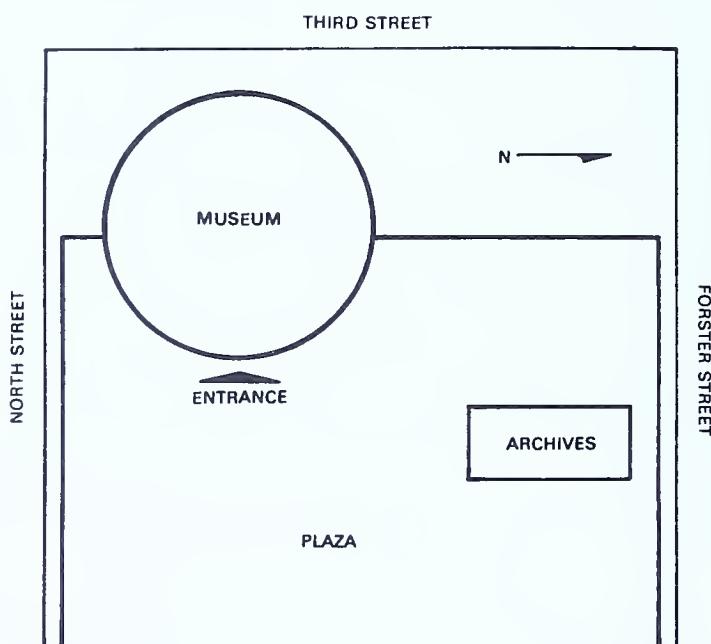
Like other parts of the Commission staff, this Division co-operates in various ways with other State and historical agencies. It would be impossible to cover these activities in brief summary, ranging as they do from support of the Pennsylvania Federation of Junior Historians, which occupies most of the time of one staff historian, through various kinds of advisory services and other assistance to historical societies, and occasional provision of speakers.

FINANCIAL TRANSACTIONS

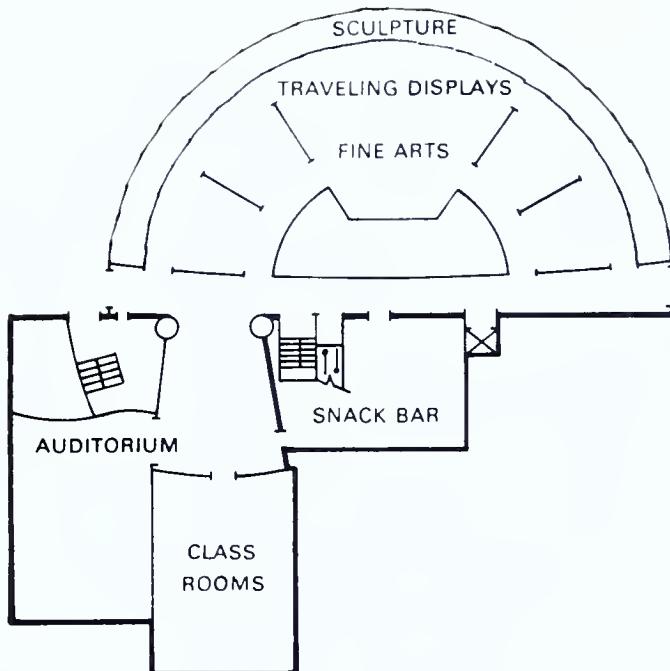
The varied activities of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission are supported primarily by direct appropriations by the General Assembly, as part of the general appropriation bills for the operation of State Government. Admission fees collected at the historical properties and the proceeds from the sale of Commission publications go into a Historical Preservation Fund, a revolving fund which the General Assembly has appropriated directly for all the Commission's activities. In this way, part of the cost is borne by those particularly interested rather than by the general taxpayer. Although income to this fund has remained steady during the past five years, a general revenue increase is anticipated in future years due to a growing public interest in history and tourism and to planned capital improvements and construction projects at various historic sites.

For the period covered by this report, appropriations granted to the Commission for General Government Operations totaled \$1,877,035.

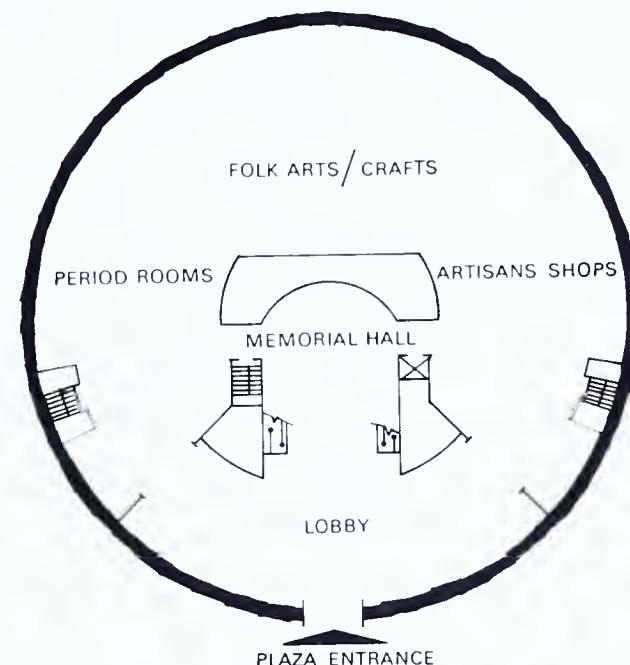
Of this amount, \$1,730,227 was expended. During the previous biennial report period, the Commission expenditures for General Government Operations totaled \$1,392,746. General Fund appropriations available in 1962-64 for capital improvements and the purchase of original equipment for capital projects totaled \$72,490. Various special appropriations for subsidizing acquisition, restoration, maintenance, and operation of historic sites and properties by non-governmental organizations amounted to \$12,500. Expenditures from the Historical Preservation Fund amounted to \$146,977.



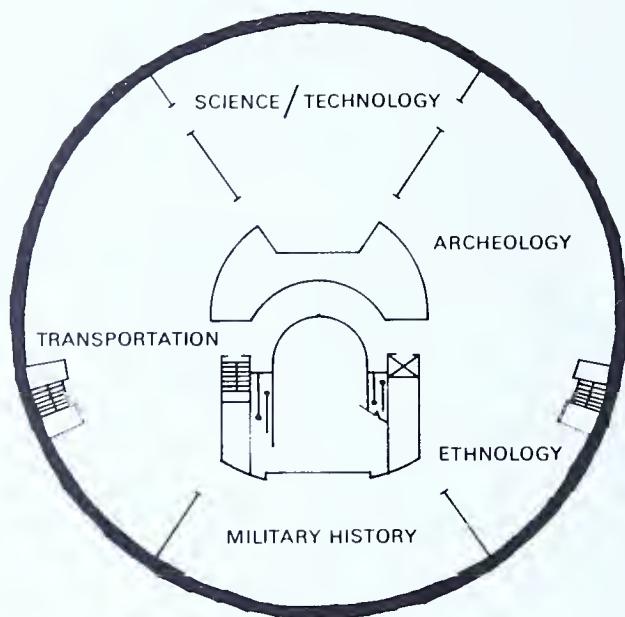
Museum and Archives Building



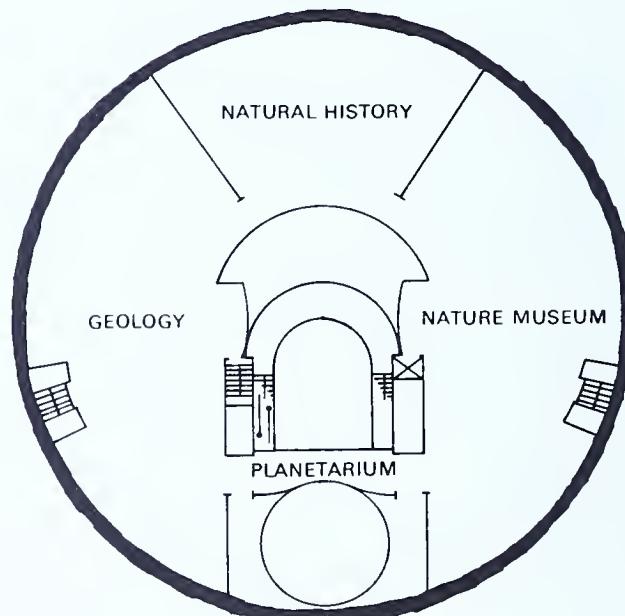
Ground Floor



First Floor

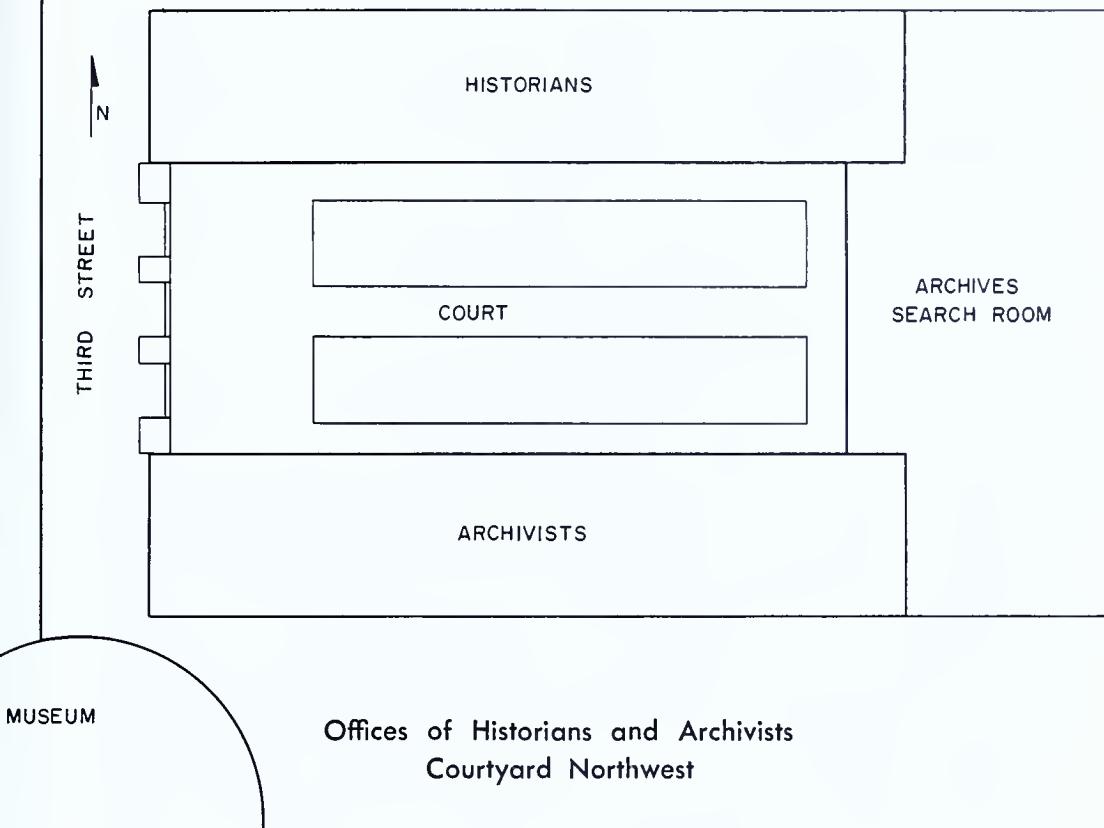


Second Floor



Third Floor

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